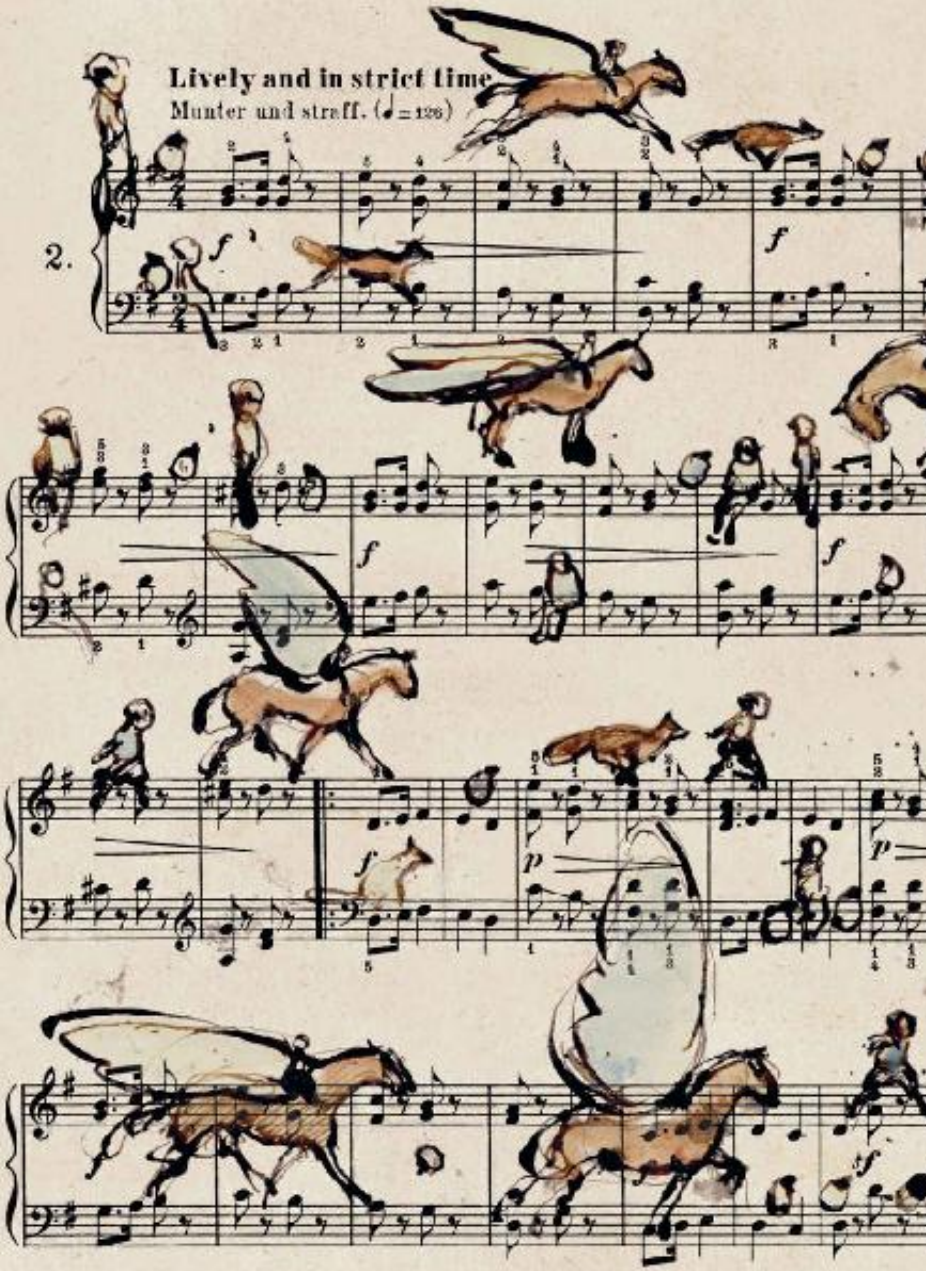
# The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse

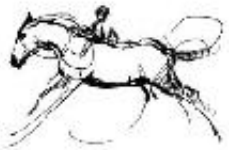
Charlie Mackesy

Lively and in strict time.
Munter und straff. (♩ = 126)
2.
f
f
f
f
f
p
p
f

# The Boy, the mole, the fox and the horse.

This book is dedicated
to my lovely kind mum,
and my wonderful dog
Dill.

# THE BOY, THE MOLE, THE FOX AND THE HORSE

Charlie Mackesy

Hello 

You started at the beginning, whic
is impressive. I usually start in th
middle, and never read introductions
It's surprising that I've made a boo
because I'm not good at reading ther
The truth is I need pictures, they a
like islands, places to get to in a se
of words.

This book is for everyone, wh
you are eighty or eight – I feel l
I'm both sometimes. I'd like it to
one you can dip into anywhere, any
Start in the middle, if you like. Scri
on it, crease the corners and leav
well thumbed.

The drawings are mainly of a boy, a mole, a fox and a horse. I'll tell you a little bit about them - although I'm sure you'll see things here that I don't, so I'll be quick.

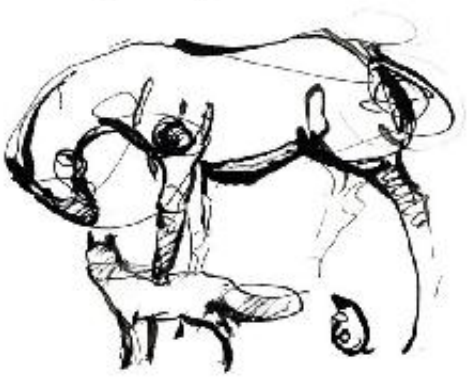
The boy is lonely when the mole first surfaces. They spend time togg gazing into the wild. I think the wi is a bit like life - frightening somet but beautiful.

In their wanderings they meet t fox. It's never going to be easy meeting a fox if you're a mole.

The boy is full of questions, the mole is greedy for cake. The fox is mainly silent and wary because he's been hurt by life.

The horse is the biggest thing they have ever encountered, and the gentlest.

They are all different, like and each has their own weakne I can see myself in all four of them, perhaps you can too.



Their adventures happen i Springtime where one moment snow is falling and the sun shines the next, which is als a little bit like life - it can t on a sixpence.

I hope this book encourages you
perhaps, to live courageously with
more kindness for yourself an
for others. And to ask for help wh
you need it - which is alway
a brave thing to do.

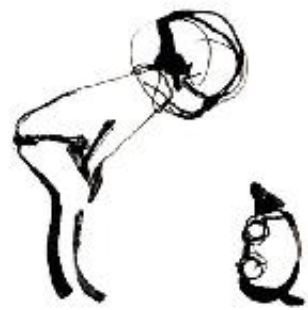
When I was making the boo
often wondered, who on earth
I to be doing this? But as t
horse says:

"the truth is everyone is winging it

So I say spread your wings a
follow your dreams - this book
is one of mine. I hope you en
it and much love to you.

Thankyou. Charlie X

"Hello"



"I'm so small," said the mole.

"Yes," said the boy, "but you make a hu difference."

"What do you want to b
when you grow up?"

"Kind" said the boy

"What do you think success is?" asked the boy

"To love," said the mole

" Well hello "

"Do you have a favourite saying?" asked the boy.

"Yes" said the mole

"What is it?"

"If at first you don't succeed, have some cak

"I see, does it wor

"Every time."

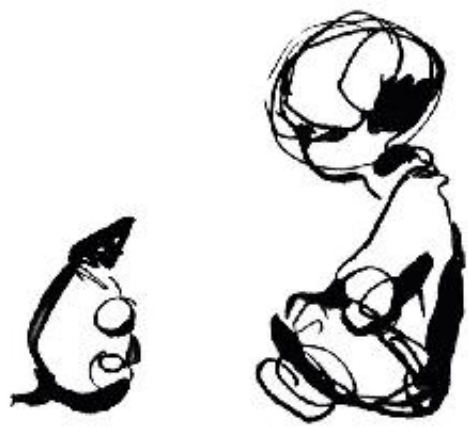
"Just a tiny taste"

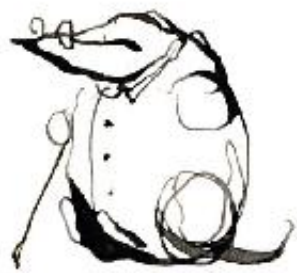
"I got you a delicious
cake," said the mole.
"Did you?"
"Yes"
"Where is it?"
"I ate it," said the mole.
"Oh."
"But I got you another
"Did you?
Where is that one?"
"The same thing seems to
have happened."

"What do you think is
the biggest waste of time

"Comparing yourself to oth
said the mole.

"I wonder if there is a school of unlearning"





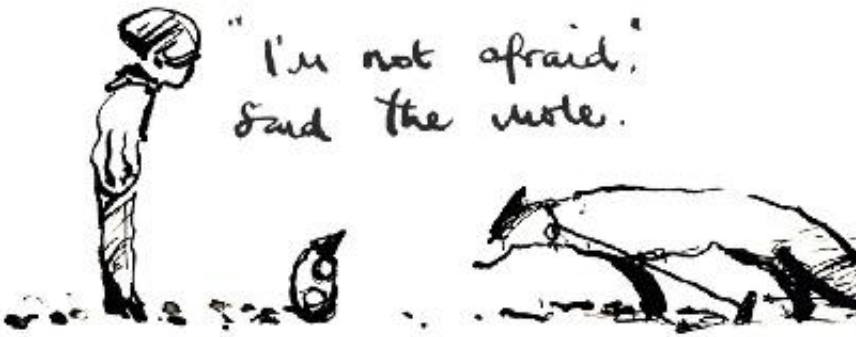
"Most of the old mole
I know wish they had
listened less to their fears an
more to their dreams."

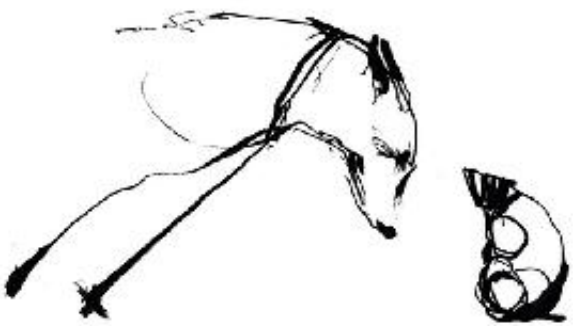
"What is that over there?

"It's the wild," said the mo

"Don't fear it."

"Imagine how we would
if we were less afraid."

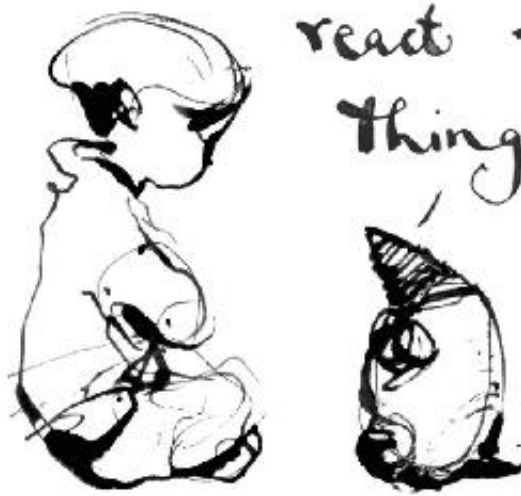


"If I wasn't caught in this sno
I'd kill you," said the fox.

So the mole chewed through
the wire with his tiny teeth.

"One of our greatest freedoms is how we react to things"



"I've learned how to be
in the present."
"How?" asked the boy
"I find a quiet spot and
shut my eyes and breath

"That's good, and then
"Then I focus."
"What do you focus on
"Cake," said the mole

"Isn't it odd. We can
only see our outsides, but
nearly everything happens on
the inside."

"Be careful not to fa..."

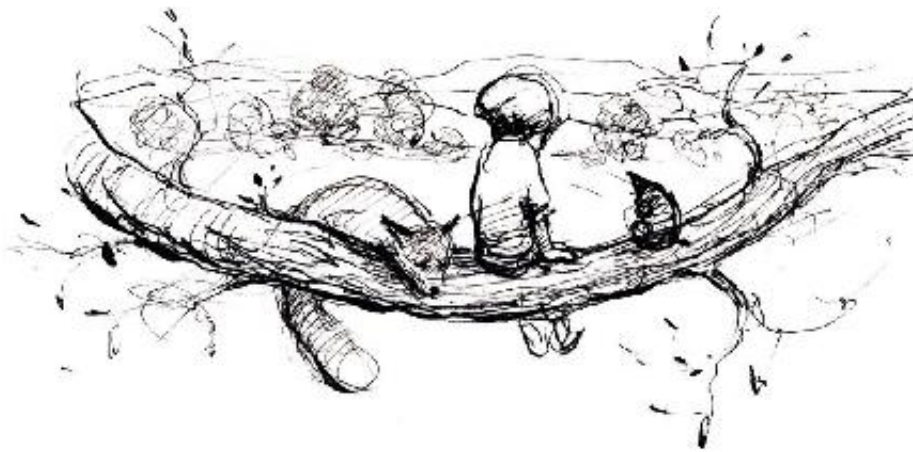
...ll"

"So much beauty we need
to look after."

"Being kind to yourself is o
of the greatest kindnesses," sai
the mole.

"We often wait for kindness
but being kind to yourself c
start now." said the mole

" Often the hardest person to forgive is yourself "



"Sometimes I feel lost,"
said the boy.

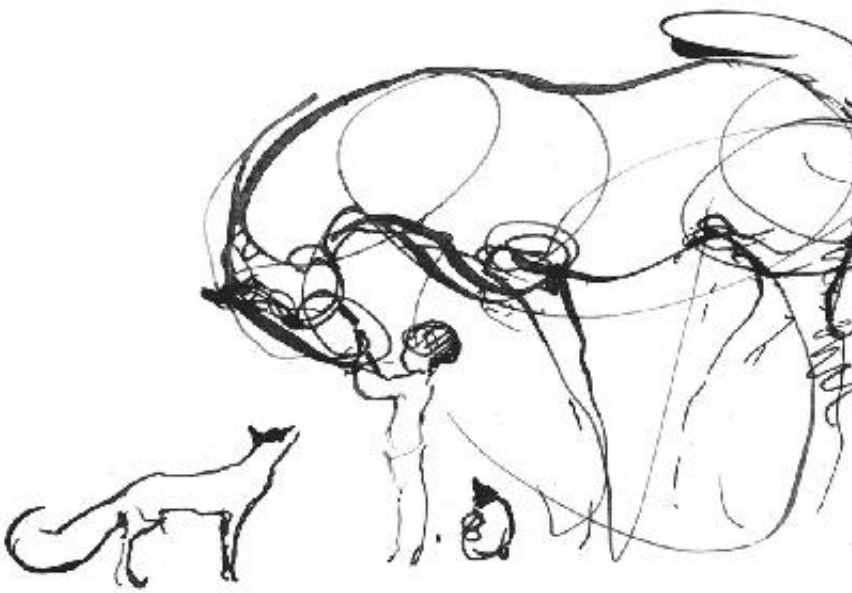
"Me too," said the mole,
"but we love you, and
love brings you home."

"I think everyone is just trying to get home."
Said the Mole.

"hello"

"hello"

"Doing nothing with friends is ne
doing nothing, is it?" asked the b



"No," said the mole.

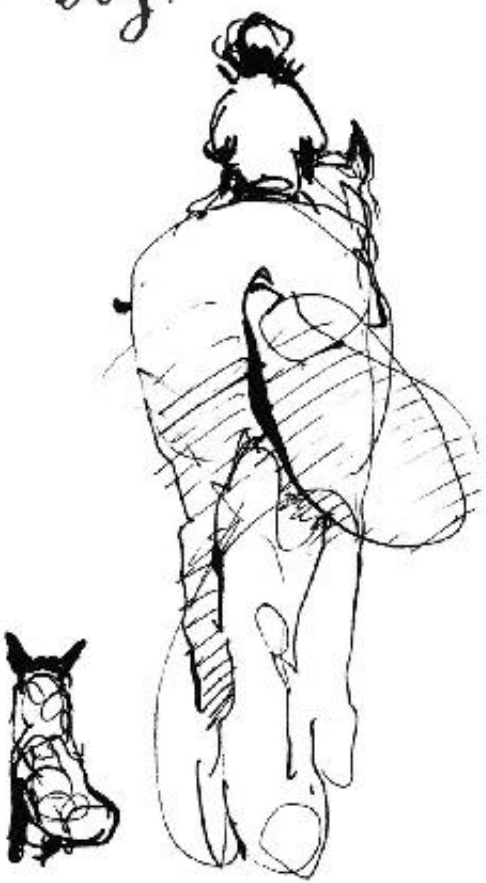
"You fell - but I've got yo

"Everyone is a bit scared,"
said the horse.

"But we are less scared
together."

"Tears fall for a reason and they are your strength not weakness"

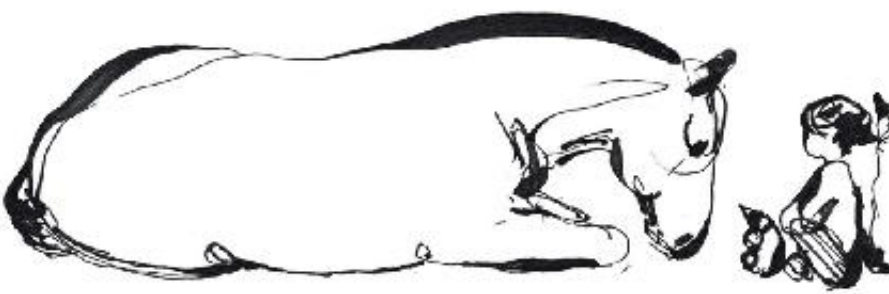
" What is the bravest thing
you've ever said?" asked
the boy.



"Help," said the horse

"When have you been at yo
strongest?" asked the boy.

"When I have dared to sho
my weakness."



"Asking for help isn't giving up," said the horse.

"It's refusing to give up."

"Sometimes I worry
you'll all realise
I'm ordinary," said
the boy.

"Love doesn't need
you to be extraordinary."
said the mole.

"We all need a reason to keep go
said the horse. "What's yours?"

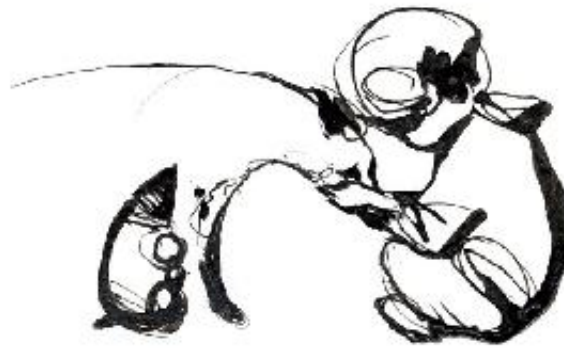
"You three," said the fox.

"Getting home," said the boy

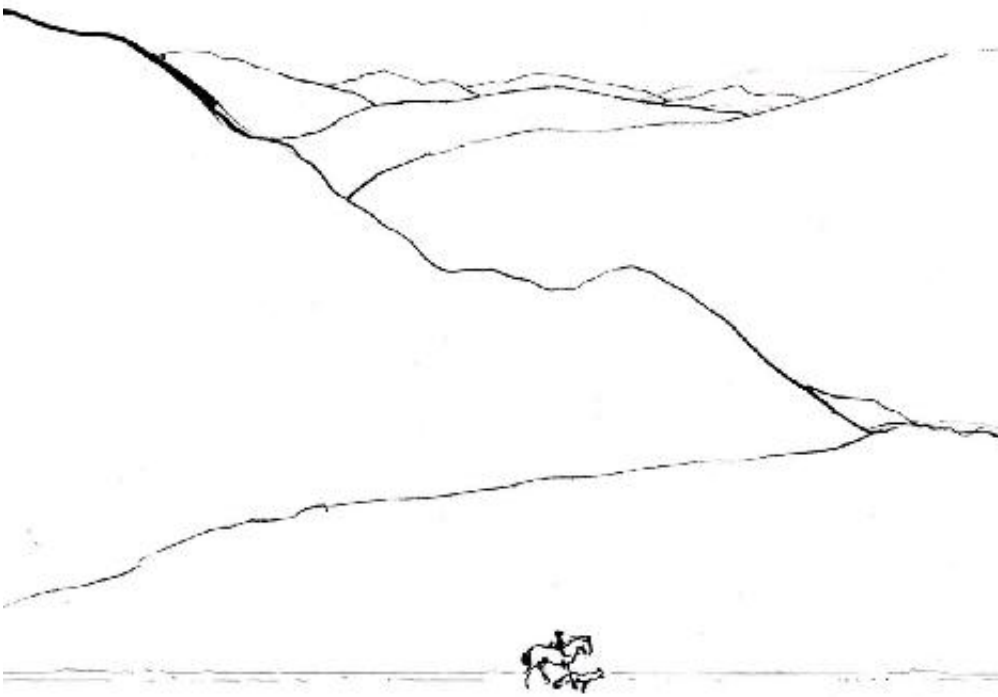
"Cake," said the mole.

"I've discovered something
better than cake."

"No you haven't," said the
"I have," replied the mo
"What is it?"
"A hug. It lasts longer.

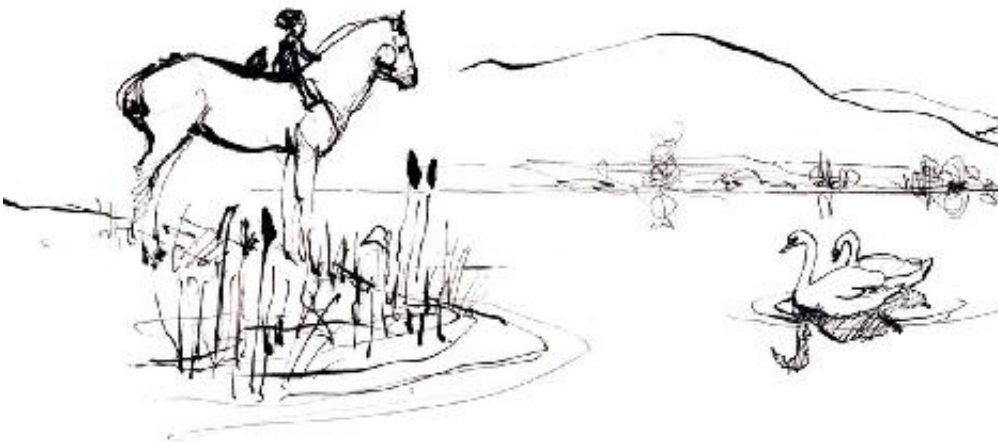


"Nothing beats kindness," said the horse. "It sits quietly beyond all th



"Sometimes," said the horse.
"Sometimes what?" asked the boy.
"Sometimes just getting up
and carrying on is
brave and magnificent."

"How do they look so together and perfect?" asked the boy



"There's a lot of frantic paddl going on beneath." said the horse

"The greatest illusion,"
said the mole,

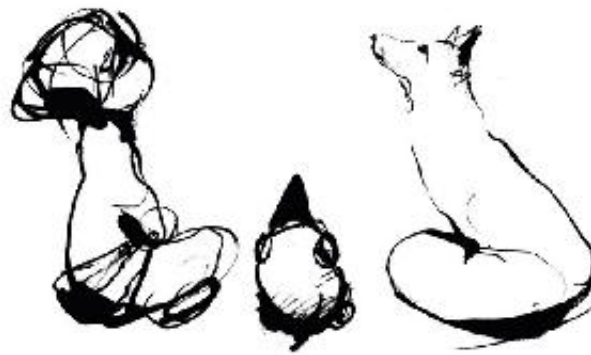
"is that life should be
perfect"

my dog walked over the drawing - clearly trying to make the

"Is it the moon?" asked
the boy.

"it's a tea cup stu
said the mole, "and
where there's tea there's ca

D



Be Curious

"Life is difficult -
but you are loved."

"So you know all about me
asked the boy
"Yes." said the horse.
"And you still love me?
"We love you all the more

"Sometimes I think
you believe in me
more than I do."
said the boy

"You'll catch up."
said the horse

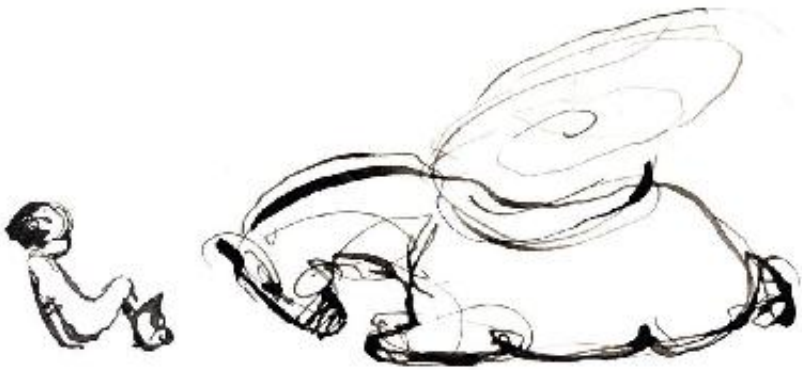
"The fox never really speaks,"
whispered the boy.

"No. And it's lovely he is with
said the horse.

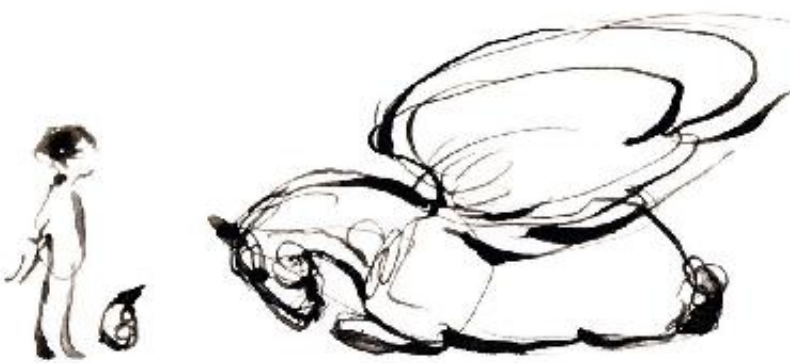
"To be honest, I often feel
I have nothing interesting to say,"
said the fox.
"Being honest is always interestin
said the horse.

"There's something I haven't told you,
said the horse,
"What's that?" said the boy
"I can fly. But I stopped because
it made other horses jealous."

"Well we love you



whether you can fly or not."



"Ok"

"Is your glass half empty or half full?"
asked the mole.
"I think I'm grateful to have a glass,"
said the boy

"We don't know about tomorr
said the horse, "all we nee
to know is that we love each o

"When the dark clouds come...
...keep going."

" When the big things feel ou
of Control
... focus on what you love righ
under your nose."

"This storm will pass.

After the Storm

"We have seen a long way to go," sighed the boy.

"Yes, but look how far
we've come,"
said the horse

"Sometimes I want to say
I love you all," said the
mole, "but I find it difficult
"Do you?" said the boy.
"Yes, so I say something like
'I'm glad we are all here.'"
"OK," said the boy.

"I'm glad we are all here."
"We are so glad you are here

"What's your best discovery?" asked the mole.

"That I'm enough as I am," said the boy.

"I've realised why we are here."
Whispered the boy.
"For cake?" asked the mole.

"To love," said the boy.
"And be loved," said the horse.

"What do we do when our hea
hurt?" asked the boy

"We wrap them with friendship
Shared tears and time, till t
wake hopeful and happy again

"Do you have any other advic
asked the boy

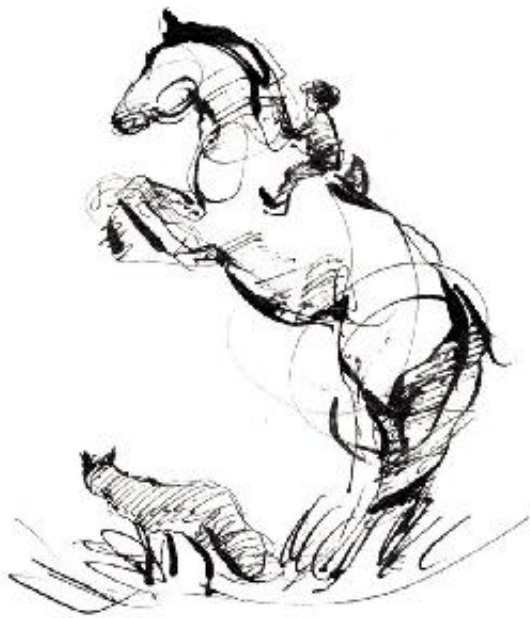
"Don't measure how valuable
are by the way you are treate
said the horse

"Always remember you matter
You're important and you are love
and you bring to this world

things no one else can."

"Home isn't always a place is it?"

"Thank
you!"



The end
look how
far we've
come

"Sometimes all you hear about
is the hate,
but there is
more love in
this world th
you could
possibly
imagine

This book is about friendship and
Couldn't have made it without m
friends. So thank you Matthew, Grac
Bear, Phil, Miranda, Amy, Emma, S
Charlie, Richard and Helen to name a
whose Conversations and love are so
of these pages. x

Thanks to Colin the brilliant
Irishman who helped sew this book
together often late into the night.

Thank you to everyone at Penguin
Gail, Jodi, Tess, Becky, Lucy, Alice, R
Beth, Nat, and especially Laura who so
coped with me and my messy draw

And thank you so much to y
on social media who encouraged
with everything.

Thankyou Sara, Daisy and Christopher
for your love and endless cups of tea
and to my dogs Dill and Barney x

FIRST PUBLISHED BY EBURY PRESS IN 2019

EBURY PRESS IS AN IMPRINT OF EBURY PUBLISHING,
20 VAUXHALL BRIDGE ROAD,
LONDON SW1V 2SA

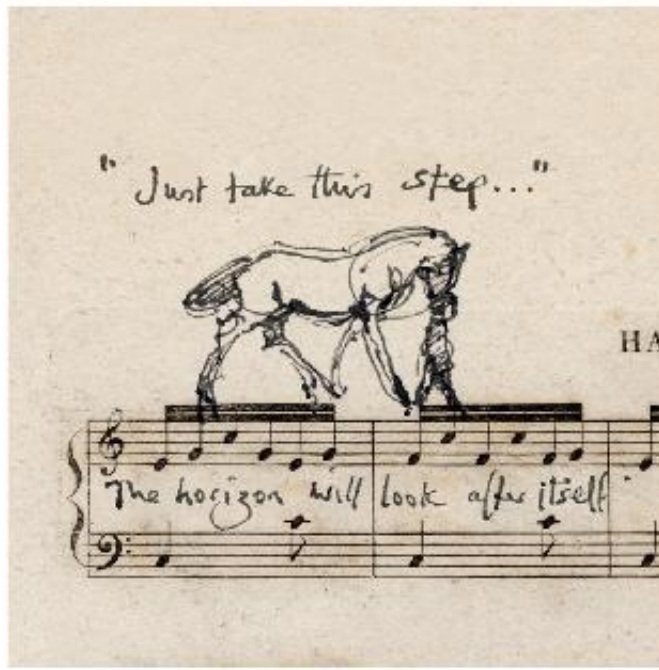
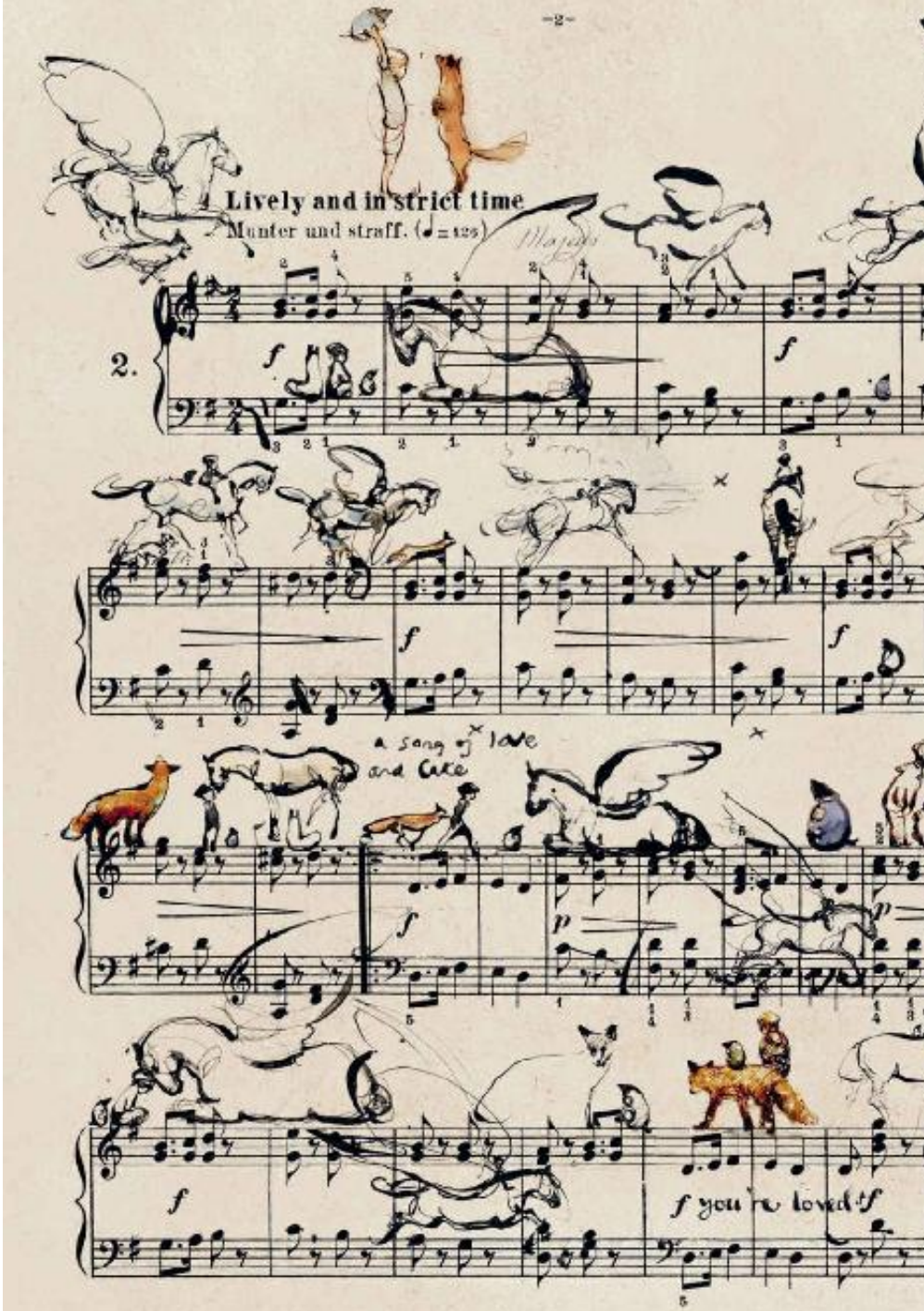
EBURY PRESS IS PART OF THE PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE
GROUP OF COMPANIES WHOSE ADDRESSES CAN BE
FOUND AT GLOBAL.PENGUINRANDOMHOUSE.COM

COPYRIGHT © CHARLIE MACKESY 2019
DESIGN BY COLM ROCHE AT IMAGIST
© EBURY PRESS 2019

CHARLIE MACKESY HAS ASSERTED HIS RIGHT TO
BE IDENTIFIED AS THE AUTHOR OF THIS WORK IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT, DESIGNS AND
PATENTS ACT 1988

WWW.PENGUIN.CO.UK

A CIP CATALOGUE RECORD FOR THIS BOOK
IS AVAILABLE FROM THE BRITISH LIBRARY

ISBN 978 1 47357 745 7

"Just take this step..."
The horizon will look after itself

Lively and in strict time
Munter und straff. (♩ = 125)
2.
a song of love
and cake
you're loved